

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SMS-02 SES-02 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 EA-10 MCT-02 ACDA-12
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-----034166 011742Z /46

P 011637Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4991
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 18017

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AF, PEPR, UR
SUBJECT: TASS ARTICLE CHARGES U.S. WITH ASSISTING
SUBVERSION IN AFGHANISTAN

SUMMARY: TASS ARTICLE SPECIFICALLY IMPLICATES U.S.
IN ITS CHARGES THAT FOREIGN FORCES OF "REACTION AND
IMPERIALISM" ARE ASSISTING SUBVERSIVE GROUPS IN
AFGHANISTAN. SAUDI ARABIA AND CHINA ARE ALSO NAMED,
BUT PAKISTAN IS NOT. ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT MOSCOW
IS SEEKING TO EXPLOIT INTERNAL UNREST IN AFGHANISTAN
TO TARNISH U.S. AND CHINESE IMAGE IN AFGHAN EYES
AND TO ENCOURAGE THOSE IN THE DRA SEEKING TO MOVE
AFGHANISTAN CLOSER TO SOVIET ORBIT. END SUMMARY.
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1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. AUGUST 1 PRAVDA JULY 31 TASS
ARTICLE DATELINED KABUL CHARGES SAUDI ARABIA, THE
U.S. AND CHINA WITH ASSISTING SUBVERSION AGAINST
THE DRA. ARTICLE LEVELS ITS CHARGES DIRECTLY,
RATHER THAN ATTRIBUTING THEM TO FOREIGN OR AFGHAN
NEWS SOURCES OR TO "OBSERVERS." ARTICLE IS ALSO

CARRIED JULY 31 ENGLISH LANGUAGE TASS SERVICE.

2. ARTICLE BEGINS BY HOLDING THAT "THE FORCES OF IMPERIALISM" HAVE REFUSED "TO LAY DOWN ARMS IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE YOUNG STATE" OF AFGHANISTAN WHICH IS ATTEMPTING TO STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION IN THE WORLD AND TO CARRY OUT DEMOCRATIC REFORMS. IT THEN GOES ON TO CHARGE THAT:

-- "SUBVERSIVE CENTERS, LOCATED IN SOME STATES NEIGHBORING ON AFGHANISTAN, ARE TRAINING ADHERENTS OF THE RIGHT WING 'MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD' GROUP, WHO ARE BEING SMUGGLED INTO AFGHANISTAN TO STAGE TERRORIST AND SABOTAGE ACTS THERE. THESE PERSONS ENDEAVOR TO CARRY ON INSTIGATORY ACTIVITY AMONG THE LOCAL POPULATION IN THE BORDER AREAS . . . THEY OFTEN PROVOKE ARMED CLASHES WITH UNITS OF THE AFGHAN ARMY IN THE FRONTIER AREAS."

-- "FOREIGN FORCES HOSTILE TO THE DRA SUPPLY AND TRAIN SUBVERSIVES OUTSIDE AFGHANISTAN AND PROVIDE THEM WITH PROPAGANDA LITERATURE. IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT FINANCIAL MEANS ARE PROVIDED TO THESE GROUPS, SPECIFICALLY BY SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES. CHINA IS ALSO CARRYING ON SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC . . . A
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PART OF THE WEAPONS CAPTURED FROM THE PLOTTERS WAS OF CHINESE MAKE."

3. IN CONCLUDING PARAGRAPHS, ARTICLE HOLDS THAT "THE FORCES OF REACTION AND IMPERIALISM (WHICH THE SOVIET READER WILL TAKE TO BE LED BY CHINA AND U.S., RESPECTIVELY) ARE PROVIDING COVERT FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT TO DOMESTIC REACTION" AGAINST THE DRA. "SOME OF THE FOREIGN STATES," ARTICLE CONTINUES, ARE ACTING THROUGH "SEPARATE GROUPS OF THE AFGHAN SHIITE CLERGY." ARTICLE'S FINAL SENTENCE ANNOUNCES THAT THE DRA IS TAKING NECESSARY MEASURES TO COUNTER THESE ACTIVITIES AND TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: THESE DIRECT TASS CHARGES AGAINST THE U.S., CHINA AND SAUDI ARABIA REPRESENT A NEW ELEMENT IN THE SOVIET PROPAGANDA LINE CONCERNING AFGHANISTAN. WE ASSUME THAT SOVIETS WOULD HAVE AT LEAST RUN THIS ARTICLE BY SOME DRA AUTHORITIES BEFORE PUBLICATION, GIVEN ITS SPECIFIC AND DIRECT CHARGES. IT WILL BE INTERESTING

TO SEE WHETHER THE ACCUSATIONS ARE DEVELOPED IN SOVIET MEDIA IN UPCOMING WEEKS. ARTICLE ALSO SUGGESTS THAT, NOT UNPREDICTABLY, SOVIETS WILL BE ATTEMPTING PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY TO EXPLOIT INTERNAL UNREST IN AFGHANISTAN BOTH TO TARNISH U.S. AND CHINESE IMAGES AND TO STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THOSE IN THE KABUL REGIME SEEKING TO MOVE AFGHANISTAN INTO AN EVER MORE DEPENDENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USSR.

5. THE ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCE TO PAKISTAN MAY

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INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

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AT LEAST PARTIALLY BE ATTRIBUTED TO POSSIBLE SOVIET HOPES THAT ISLAMABAD MAY BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING WITHDRAWING FROM CENTO AND IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW. (IN THIS REGARD, TASS ENGLISH LANGUAGE SERVICE JULY 31 ALSO CARRIES STORY ON GENERAL ZIA'S QUETTA STATEMENT REGARDING POSSIBLE CENTO WITHDRAWAL. ARTICLE CRITICIZES CENTO, NOTING THAT IT IS "MORE CLEARLY REALIZED IN PAKISTAN" THAT CENTO IS A "POLITICAL ANACHRONISM" WHICH THE "PAKISTAN

PUBLIC" OPPOSES.) TOON

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